March 13, 2006: This Week in Congress

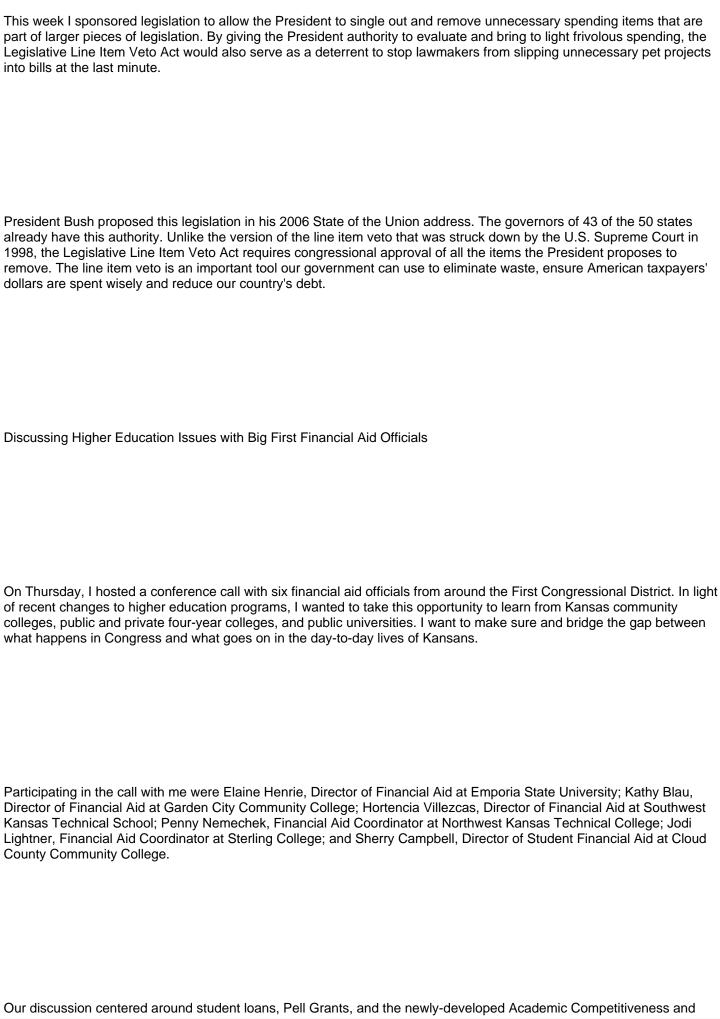
This Week in Congress
March 13, 2006
Dear Friend,
Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you find this newsletter useful.
Broadest Federal Anti-Meth Measures Pass Congress
This week I was pleased Congress passed the broadest ever anti-methamphetamine measures. The legislation sets a federal standard for addressing meth on all levels across the country.
This legislation will:
- Restrict the sale of necessary ingredients to make meth - Restricts sale of medicines containing pseudoephedrine, ephedrine and phenylpropanolamine (PPA) by placing them behind the counter, requiring purchasers to show identification and sign a logbook, and limiting individual purchases.
- Toughen criminal penalties - Toughens federal penalties against trafficking and smuggling, as well as producing or dealing meth in the presence of children.

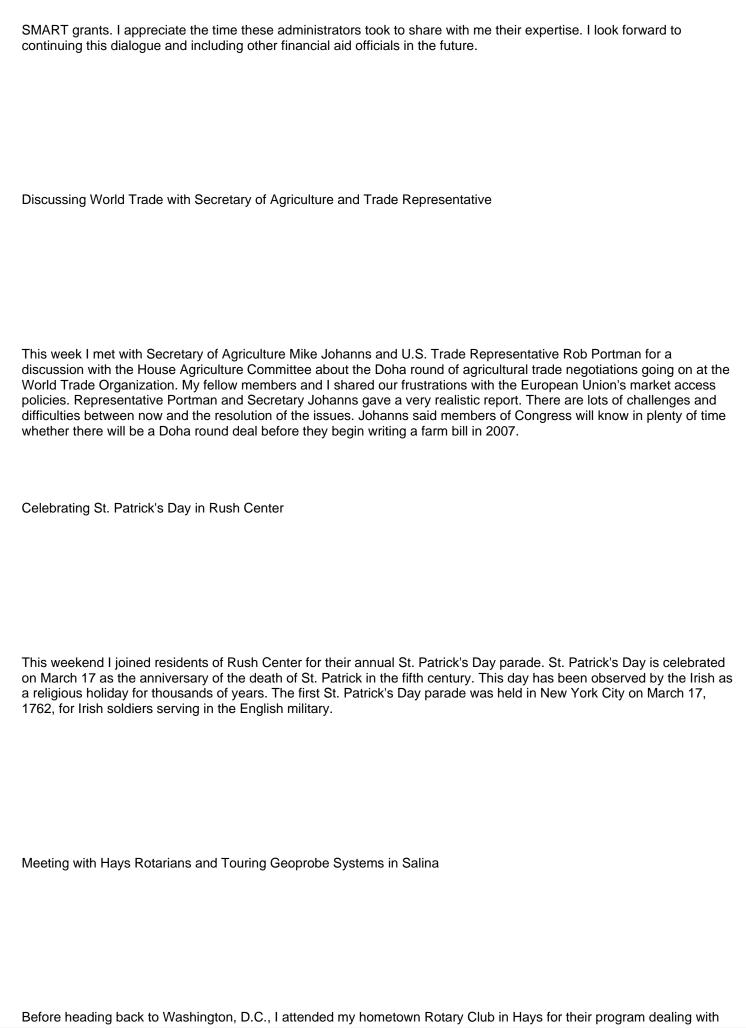
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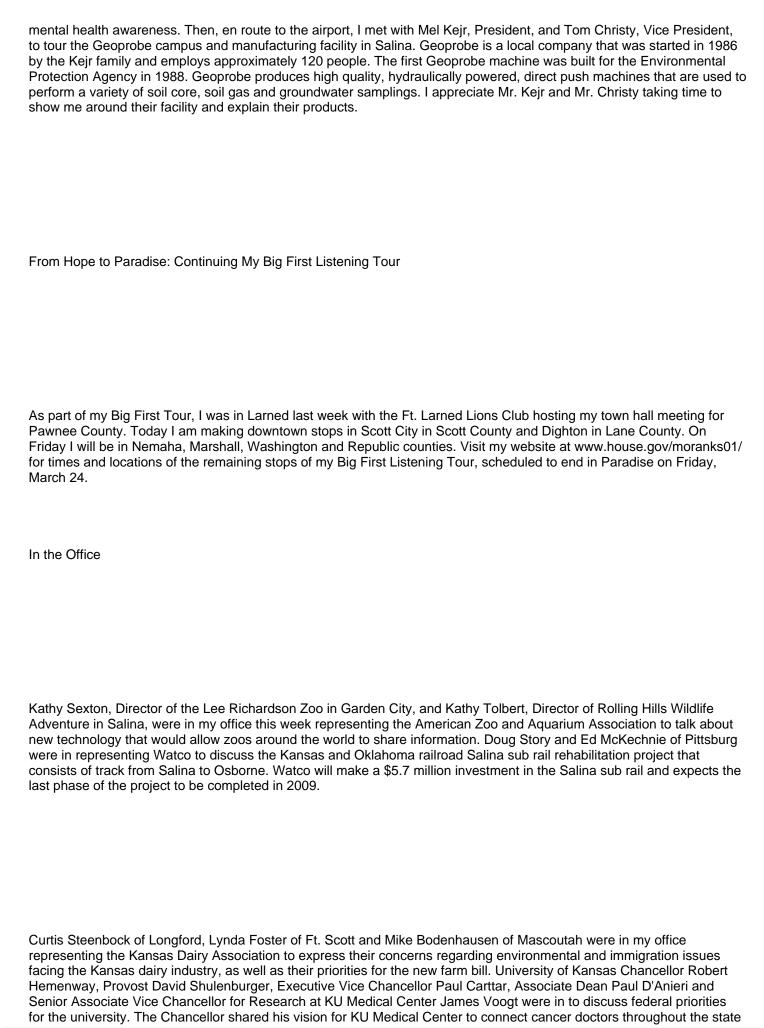
prosecution and environmental clean-up.

- Provide critical resources to government and law enforcement agencies - Provides funding for training, enforcement,

- Provide services for children affected by the spread of meth - Provides grant funding for Drug Endangered Children rapid response teams to promote collaboration among federal, state and local agencies to assist and educate children that have been affected by meth.
Meth is destroying lives, families and communities - the lifeblood of rural America. Though it has been on the radar screen for years, this legislation takes a big picture approach to combating this dangerous drug from every angle, including production, trafficking and usage.
I announced the passage of this legislation in two press conferences at Kansas Regional Prevention Centers in Salina and Hays on Friday. Joining me in Salina were Kansas Methamphetamine Project Coordinator Cristi Cain, Salina Police Chief Jim Hill, Saline County Sheriff Glen Kochanowski, City Commissioners Alan Jilka and Abner Perney, City Manager Jason Gage and other city board members. Representing the Regional Prevention Center of North Central Kansas were CEO Les Sperling and Director Brenda Haaga. Mike Marshall with the Police Department, Annie Grevas with Community Corrections and Pat Ochs with Social and Rehabilitation Services were also present for the conference.
Joining me in Hays were Chief of Police Jim Braun, Ellis County Sheriff Ed Harbin, Ellis County Attorney Tom Drees, For Hays State University Kelly Center Director Bob Duffy, FHSU Chief of Police Ed Howell and High Plains Mental Health Center Director Walt Hill. Heather Winklepleck and several social workers and counselors from the Smoky Hill Foundation Regional Prevention Center were also on hand for the conference, as well as other local law enforcement officials. I appreciate the support from each community and especially the efforts of Heather in Hays and Brenda in Salina in coordinating the press conferences.
Supporting Legislation to Allow the President to Remove Unnecessary Spending







to keep them updated on all the newest breakthroughs.
Board members of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers including Kendall Hodgson of Little River, Joe Kejr of Brookville, Paul Penner of Hillsboro, Dan Engler of Downs and John Thaemert of Sylvan Grove were in to talk about an economic loss assistance program, priorities for the next farm bill and the importance of research and development for Kansas wheat programs. Also with the group were Dana Hoffman and Dusti Fritz of the Association's Manhattan office. Steve Root of Lakin was in representing the Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service to discuss concerns regarding food safety inspection regulations and inspector employment programs.
Several organization representatives were in my office this week to discuss the upcoming farm bill. Jim French of Partridge was in representing Oxfam America for this and to talk about rural development. Ken McCauley of White Cloud was in representing the National Corn Growers Association for this discussion as well as to express support of the ethanol industry. Lastly, Charles Cochran of Wichita was in to visit about the 2007 Farm Bill.
In representing the Kansas Public Transit Association were Ron Butts and Janlyn Nesbett of Topeka, Cliff Galante of Lawrence, Ron Straight of Hays and Lisa Loeb of Hutchinson to discuss the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act. Last year Kansas public transportation utilized more than 800 vehicles to provide more than 8 million rides. Kansas leaders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars were in to talk about enhancing the Montgomery GI Bill, improving veterans' health care and allowing retired veterans to receive both their retirement and disability pay in full. In with the group were Harold Garrett of Wichita, Larry Graham of Tribune, Phil Irby and McKinley Smith of Junction City, Tom Sanko of Dodge City, Kathy Osborn of Liberal, Dick Weston of Benton, Steve and June Phelps of Ransom, Charley Shoemaker of Leavenworth and Roy Taylor of Dighton. In from Topeka with the group were Darrell Bencken, Jefferson Lawson and Kenneth Stodgell.
Kansas representatives of the National Sorghum Producers were in to discuss the upcoming farm bill and to share their support for the ethanol industry and for retaining funding for Agricultural Research Services. The president of the organization, Greg Shelor of Minneola, was in with the group, as were Jeff Casten of Quenemo, Bill Greving of Prairie View, Dave Erwin of Syracuse and Sue Hardman of Garnett. Ken Maginley of Wamego, Bob Reece of Council Grove, Stuart Lowry of Topeka and Donald Hellwig of Solomon were in with DS&O Rural Electric Cooperative Association to talk about issues with Consolidated Utilities' private bid to provide electric distribution service to Ft. Riley.

Representatives from the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Sunflower Electric and Searles Valley Minerals were in to discuss concerns regarding inaccessibility to railroad service in Kansas. Representatives included Dana Hoffman and Justin Gilpin of Manhattan, Paul Penner of Hillsboro, Charles Ayers of Leoti, Bill McGinn of Overland Park and John White of Independence. James Daniels of Wichita was in the office representing the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission to talk about capping of orphan wells and expansion of U.S. oil and gas exploration. His wife Lois accompanied him.

In representing the International Association of Chiefs of Police were Chief Mike Watson of the Riley County Police Department in Manhattan and John Douglass of Overland Park to talk about preventive law enforcement and immigration. Susan Estes and Sandy Johnson of Overland Park, Kurt Balthazor of Pittsburg and Mike Vallaro of Lenexa were in representing Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center to visit about innovation and efficiency in small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies. Russell Plaschka of Moran and Karmey Olson of Topeka were in to advocate for the importance of career and technical education for Kansas students.

Representatives from the Kansas Psychological Association visited my office to discuss mental health parity. Attending the meeting were Gary Hawley and Bruce and Judy Nystrom of Wichita, as well as Theresa Coddington of Overland Park. Greg Hildenbrand of Topeka, Director of Life Star of Kansas, was in to talk about air medical services. Life Star of Kansas provides air medical services in the northeast Kansas area, including Junction City in the First District. Paula Peters and Sandy Procter with Kansas State University Research and Extension in Manhattan were in my office to discuss the success of food and nutrition programs in Kansas.

Pam Scott of Topeka, Jerry and Judy Witt of Fort Scott and Mike Turnbull of Emporia were in representing the National Funeral Directors Association to talk about small business and tax issues concerning burial trusts. Representatives from the Kansas Association of Community Action Programs were in my office to discuss the importance of the Community Services Block Grant and funding for other social programs such as Head Start. Attending the meeting were Joan Burke and Linda Broyles of Girard, Dianne Lawson and Tawny Stottlemire of Topeka, Lu Hangley of Hiawatha, Athena Lanter of Sabetha and Dale Tower of Augusta.

Steve and Cynthia Hayes of Oberlin were in to talk about a federal shield law to protect reporters from being forced to divulge sources in courts of law. The Hayes' publish the Oberlin, Goodland, Colby, Norton, St. Francis and Bird City newspapers in northwest Kansas. This week I also met with several county commissioners from the First District while they were in Washington, D.C., with the Kansas Association of Counties. Also stopping by my office was Walter Berry of Wichita.

Several Kansans were in my office this week for tours of the Capitol building. Kathy Olson of Liberal came by for a tour, as did Belinda Sharp of Hutchinson with her children, Luke, Laci and Adam. Peggy Schoepf of Haven was in with her grandson, Jerami Slayden of Lincolnville. Also in was a group from Haven High School in Haven, including Janessa Black, Jill Bowman, Alissa Haney, Bethany Hodgson, Rhedi Leiker, John and Nathan Pohl, Roger Wait and Christopher Carithers, with their instructor, Richard Kaufman and his wife, Barbara. Dr. Tim Poling and his wife, Margaret, of St. Francis also toured the Capitol this week, as did Tami Erwin of Syracuse.

Very truly yours,

Jerry